

21 p10mc 298

P.1R June 1920

P.1R

Scale How,

Ambleside.

My dear *Chiam*

It is eight years since I had an opportunity of writing to each of you and to all of you as a body. Let me repeat the welcome that you received at Winchester in the words of Isaak Walton, that wise fisherman who gathered wisdom while he waited for the trout to rise:-

"I will tell you, Scholar, I have heard a grave Divine say that God has two dwellings: one in Heaven; and the other in a meek and thankful heart. Which Almighty God grant to me, and to my honest Scholar: and so you are welcome."

Some of you may still have the card with this motto among your treasures, but all of you, I know, have brought the meek and thankful heart that Isaak Walton desired for himself and his Scholar: meek, because we shall be thinking about great persons in a place touched with the magic of holy and serviceable lives; about the work in stone and on parchment of famous men and women of old and of the wonders of sea and sky and earth, of tales told by the very rocks, all uniting in a chorus:- "Great and marvellous are thy works and they ought to be had in remembrance."

Let us remember that the works of men indirectly, and the

work of Nature, directly, are the great and marvellous works of God. Thinking of these things, we shall be meek and very ready to learn, and so we shall find out that "the meek shall inherit the earth," for those things that we love and delight in are far more truly ours than the things, so easily spoilt, which money can buy.

A famous schoolmaster was asked by his boys to explain that saying of our Lord's about the meek, and he said,-

"Napoleon thought he inherited the earth by force of arms, and he died on Elba. Wordsworth had no such proud thoughts, but he did inherit the earth; all the Lake country and much of the world besides belongs to him still."

Being rich in these great things we shall be gentle and generous, and I am very sure you all have thankful hearts, thankful for Whitby and all that it means and will mean for all your lives; very thankful that God has set us in a world so full of beauty and joy; thankful to our kind and hospitable Whitby friends; thankful to the beloved friends who have brought you here, and tenderly thankful, I know, to those other kind friends who have taken great delight in planning and arranging for this wonderful week. That is how people writing to me about Whitby describe the Winchester Gathering, "that wonderful week".

How I wish I could be with you to share all your joys and to see your dear faces! - the more so, because you have made me

quite intimate with you in those examination papers which give me happy weeks; because I can see how happy you were in writing them, and what great joy you have in that knowledge, some of which you pour out in your papers.

I have news to tell you which will I think give you a great deal of pleasure. Nobody can enjoy a treat by himself; he wants other boys and girls to share it with him, and the bigger the treat the more friends he would have to share it. I know you think of the P.U.S. work as a treat. I get letters every day to tell me how much So-and-so enjoys his or her lessons, and, though I cannot see you to-day, I know what happy faces you carry. I wonder do you know what gives happy faces to children and grown-ups? Just this, people look happy when they have nice things to think about, and you have so many delightfully interesting things to occupy your minds that I have never seen an unhappy-looking P.U.S. Scholar.

When we are happy we long to make other people so too; therefore I know you will be delighted to know that thousands and thousands of children have joined the school since the Winchester days, and, what is better than all, many of them are in elementary schools; these dear children too wander in the woods with Titania and Oberon, pitch their tents on the plains of Palestine with King Richard, see the wonders of the Parthenon, and lift up their eyes to the hills and to the stars. Some of them, with their teachers

are, as you know, present at this Gathering, sharing in the generous welcome given to us by all our kind friends in Whitby and all of you together have your thoughts full of great and beautiful things, and mean to learn and be of use in God's wonderful world.

I wonder, would you like to add to your prayers at night, "God bless all children, parents and teachers in the P.U.S."

As you are by the seaside I should like to give you a verse to think of which I like very much. You recollect about that storm at sea when our Lord was asleep upon a pillow; this is what Keble says of it:-

"Well, if we pray till Thou awake!
A word, a glance from Thee
Soft silence in the soul can make,
Calm peace upon the sea."

I must not keep you from other pleasures by writing too long a letter, so I shall only add my very loving greetings to each of you.

Always your very affectionate friend,

CHARLOTTE M. MASON.

Chas. W. Smith
Sampers

Seaboard
Amblecote
Jan 4th 1917

My dear "Bourgeois!"

It will be delightful to see you
at Easter, if, indeed, considering the
present restrictions on travelling, you
see your way to undertake what must
be for many of you a long & difficult
journey.

Should you come, I suppose it
will be as before; you will arrive on
Thursday, ^{April 10th 12th.} the ~~10th~~ 10th; meet in the
Classroom here on the Friday, & on the
Saturday morning. We shall manage
to put ourselves somewhat (with a
great deal of pleasure) and, in the
evening you will come here I hope, to
an 'At Home', just an occasion for

talking & making friends, & for giving
me the pleasure of seeing the dear
faces once more.

On the Sunday you usually come
here to early dinner & tea. & some
of you might care to join what you
used to call "Meditations".

Then, on Monday ^{morning} I wonder that
you have an Association Meeting which
you would like the present-students
^{in the big classroom}
to attend? & in the evening, I think they
have it in view to produce a play
for you, unless you have other plans.

But none of this is fixed, so
please make any changes that
occur to you, being very sure that
the pleasure of seeing you - & the hope
that the Conference may be a very happy
one (whose memory will cheer us all
in these dark & uncertain days), is what
we care most about.

1793/100-298

I shall be particularly glad of an opportunity
to tell you of the great national work which
has come to us in these few days. No
doubt - you have all heard something of the
introduction of R.E.S. work into elementary
schools, but you can hardly ^{imagine} ~~understand~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{shown} the avidity ~~with~~ ^{by} both
teachers + children, nor the cordial way
in which H. M. Inspectors + educational
authorities give their help; in Bradford
the Educational Committee is prepared
to advance a four years' allowance in
each school for books + stationery, in
order that teachers may get the necessary
books.

Now, last summer (in South Wales)
when Miss Parish was visiting & I talked
over a 'plan of campaign' for my good
Penguin Wars of the Sea students; that, in
some cases, the parents of the young children
would form a School Managers or
Members of Council, & if not, would be able

~~and~~ to reach the Directors of
the Director of Education, & to the

I suppose the first thing would be for
you to get your "parents" interested in an
effort which should do much for the
happiness of our country. I should like
all children, many interests & resources,
I should like to ease laborer's troubles
by finding the people something to take
their privacies to think of. This is the
first thing. Once you have secured this
interest, I think our Parish will give
you pamphlets with which to bombard
people with various advice & instructions.

Give the principal people to get
hold of as the teachers, & I think that
any one who can be easy to do something
and better ask him. Give you the new pamphlets
- study them very carefully before
recommending to that they be made to all
whom you can reach.

Still hoping to see you in the near future,
and your always affectionate friend
John W. Mason

1919², 1920²,

of knowledge
 to recognize the elements with which the child
 suffers; we have the young human being who is
 not only a ~~unregenerate~~ but also listless & faint
 with a will - hunger, & today, thousands of
 children are picking themselves up, bright & gay &
 happy of countenance because they are
 being well fed. But is it only children &
 whom these ministrations are vital; all
 persons are healthily-minded in proportion
 as their minds are fed; we remember what
 happened to the man that was hungry & perished,
 & we know of our own experience of hunger,
 discontent, impurity, vanity, ill-humour
 which men & women in state possession of the
 largest mind. Hence it is not only
 to the schoolroom we make our appeal, as up
 to the fact that in unintentional school
 among other adult persons who perished in
 themselves, the necessity is put: But we do
 know that the desultory reading of our good
 or book ministered not more than it could
 a good dinner in the kitchen. There is a
lack of training which we must recognize